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# Diffusion of Alkali and Alkaline Earth Ions in Silicate Glasses and its Correlation with Liquid Fragility

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A physical understanding of diffusion processes in glasses is of great scientific and technological importance. In this work, we study the influence of the type of alkali and alkaline earth ions on the ionic diffusivity and fragility of iron-bearing silicate glasses. The modifying-ionic inward diffusion occurs in the glasses when  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  is reduced to  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ . In the  $\text{SiO}_2\text{-Na}_2\text{O-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{-RO}$  ( $\text{R} = \text{Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba}$ ) glass series, the extent of diffusion decreases in the sequence  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Ba}^{2+}$ . In the  $\text{SiO}_2\text{-A}_2\text{O-Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{-CaO}$  ( $\text{A} = \text{Na, K, Rb, or Cs}$ ) glass series, the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ions diffuse faster than alkali ions and the activation energy of the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  diffusion decreases with alkali size. In both series, the inward diffusion increases with a decrease in the fragility ( $m$ ) of the glass systems. In this work, we have discussed the origin of this relation. In addition, we have proposed a simple model to explain the correlation between  $m$  and  $T_g$  of the glasses.